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First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements

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## Why

The immediate occasion of war between the United States and the German Empire is the assertion and application by Germany of the doctrine that American citizens may be murdered and American ships sunk whenever German purpose is thus served, despite all the protection guaranteed to them by international law.

But the occasion of the war can have little interest for us to-day, and it will have less for those who come hereafter. The war with Germany is the result of German assault upon the democracy of the world, upon the humanity of mankind, for the purpose of winning world power and world supremacy for Germany.

The German invasion of Belgium, in defiance of German pledge and treaty obligation, was a sign and symbol that Germany believed herself to be outside and above international faith and honor. The shambles of Louvain were a lasting expression in action of the German conviction that humanity, pity, mercy, were phrases without appeal for the German when murder, arson, rape, could contribute to the realization of a German purpose.

The sinking of the Lusitania was a demonstration of the German conviction that neither neutrals nor non-combatants were entitled to life, to liberty, to the performance of their peaceful duties when Germany could profit by their murder. Each crime against America that has followed has been merely one more application of the German idea.

Let us in the days that are to come keep in mind the magnitude of the real issue of this war. It is a war for liberation; a war for the re-liberation of those peoples who have been conquered in the present conflict; and a war for the liberation of those peoples who have, through long centuries, remained the victims of tyranny and autocracy. It is a war for the liberation of mankind; for the liberation of mankind from the immediate sufferings incident to German aggression; and it is a war for the liberation of mankind from the future perils of the persistence of the German idea in the world.

Abraham Lincoln said that this Republic could not exist half slave and half free. Now, with similar clarity, we perceive that the world cannot exist half German and half free. We have to put an end to the bloody doctrine of the superior race—to that anarchy which is expressed in the conviction that German necessity is above all law. We have to put an end to the German idea of ruthlessness. We have to put an end to the doctrine that it is right to make every use of power that is possible, without regard to any restriction of justice, of honor, of humanity.

For thirty-two months German armies have been going up and down Europe destroying the beautiful, abusing the weak, murdering the helpless, transforming some of the most beautiful places and regions in the world into deserts. They have harnessed science to barbarism and called it "Kultur." They have joined organization to ruthlessness and called it "civilization."

They have expressed the spirit of the Dark Ages by the machines of the twentieth century. And to this threat and to this menace mankind has responded as mankind must. We have had a plebiscite of the free peoples of the world, and one by one they have gone to the trenches to repulse the German hordes. One nation after another, its leaders following its masses, has rejected the German doctrine and has taken up arms to defend a common civilization and a common democracy.

Let us at all times remember why we are at war. We are at war because Germanism threatens all that has been best and noblest and most enduring in our national life. We are at war because those who trace their national liberty to Lexington cannot permanently permit Liege and Louvain to stand. We are at war because there are no boundaries to liberty and because all free peoples are equally imperiled when autocracy is on the march and Prussianism abroad in the world.

This sort of thing which Germany has been doing over the face of the waters and

of the land for thirty-two months must stop. Not only must it stop, but the lesson of the war must be so brought home to the German people that they will forswear the gospel of the sword and the religion of the torch. We have gone to war to defend democracy, and we must defend democracy at the point where it is assailed. Our battle front is now the battle front of France, as the French battle front is the outside boundary of civilization. We must not pause in our war now until Poland is restored, Serbia again liberated, Rumania freed, Belgium returned to her own people, Alsace-Lorraine reunited to France. All these things are but symbols of German tyranny. All these things are but the handwork of Germany written on the face of Europe, and they must be removed. We have enlisted for the war. We have enlisted not in a war against the German people but against that doctrine which the German people held to, and with the German people there can be no peace so long as they hold to that doctrine. This war is the natural consequence of Lexington. This war is the natural consequence of Marathon. It is one more in the long series of wars that men have had to wage against tyranny and oppression in the cause of liberty.

Let us keep forever clear in our mind the broad horizon. Those who would have us betray democracy will now urge a selfish doctrine of America first. But no man who loves democracy will place America outside the number of the nations who must serve it and sacrifice for it. We have gone to war as our fathers and grandfathers went to war more than half a century ago—to preserve that American experiment in liberty which is the United States. We have gone to war as our ancestors went to war nearly a century and a half ago because we are, in our origin, our tradition, our spirit, a free people, who must testify to their love of liberty and their hatred of tyranny by their service and by their sacrifice.

We have enrolled among the nations who believe in liberty. We shall now fight as they are fighting for the restoration in the world of the spirit of democracy and the doctrine of justice. We must fight until the German doctrine of force and terror is repealed and utterly abolished. Instinctively the mass of the American people have led their leaders and their rulers to the post of honor and the post of duty. We have come to this post and, having come, we must stay until one more battle—the greatest perhaps of all—has been won for mankind.

## Sound Doctrine

Mayor Mitchell is to be commended for the issuance of his proclamation enjoining loyalty on the people of this city. New York, a "cosmopolitan community," holds millions of foreign born within its borders, whose sympathies since the beginning of the European war have been deeply engaged with one or another of the belligerents. It is to be assumed that the great mass of the foreign born, whether American citizens or not, will yield allegiance to the laws of the country which has given them protection, opportunity to earn a livelihood without handicaps, individual and political freedom, even if their sympathies have been with the country now formally declared to be America's enemy.

Unfortunately, there are those of another class, malcontents, paid agents of the enemy, "exceptional cases of malign influence and malicious purpose," as the Mayor so well puts it, whose past conduct does not augur so well for the future. It was particularly necessary to remind them that the Police Department, amply and ably prepared by Commissioner Woods, is equipped for handling any emergency which their malicious purpose might produce.

This is no time for divided sympathies, for equivocal words or deeds. The Mayor was justified in reiterating that treason includes not only the levying of war against the United States, but adhering to their enemies, "giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere." The Police Department can, and will, suppress overt acts of treason. It remains for the people of New York themselves to avoid subtler forms of disloyalty and treason by upholding "America First" in thought and word.

## Professor Haeckel's Revised Opinions

For long years a sturdy nonconformist in many things, Professor Haeckel, of Jena, has proved as docile as the flabbiest and most abject of his fellow subjects in shaping his convictions to the official conception of the war. The world has risen against German tyranny, but he sees only England. England is the ogre that the dear Fatherland must overcome for the benefit of all mankind; and though all mankind seem indeed to be on the wrong side in the great struggle, that is but another proof of England's villainy, for England, against all right and reason, "is now succeeding in her design of setting the whole world against us."

Therefore, Professor Haeckel echoes "the words of our three greatest heroes, Hindenburg, Ludendorff and Tirpitz," crying, "Down with England at any price!" That is the one possible solution. "Only," says he, "when our U-boats have succeeded in breaking and bringing England to her knees shall we get the peace desired by Germany." For Professor Haeckel has "known England for fifty years," and what he knows has taught him that "England is rightly called 'the destroyer of peoples.'"

Professor Haeckel is and always was a prolific talker and writer. When he cele-

brated his sixtieth birthday it was his boast that, besides an uncounted number of occasional papers, he had published forty-two books, amounting in all to about thirteen thousand pages of print. That was more than twenty years ago, and he has not laid down his pen yet. It would be unreasonable to suppose that he could remember everything he has written. But it is curious to recall that after making a tour through the British colonies he was indignant with his fellow-countrymen who were too prejudiced to see that the British Empire was by no means a menace.

In those days he thought the British policy in Egypt was above criticism and "ought to be hailed with satisfaction alike on the grounds of common humanity and on those of national political action." Indeed, as empire builders he believed those whom he now calls "the destroyers of peoples" to be "undoubtedly lifted beyond any other nation" and endowed with "a political skill which brings progress and benefit to the whole human race." But in those days Professor Haeckel's writings were unofficial.

## Put Germany's Shipping to Use!

The government took physical possession yesterday of sixty-eight German merchantmen, war-bound in American ports. The status of these vessels has not been definitely fixed. They have been put temporarily in the care of customs officers because their crews had to be removed and the ships could not be left unprotected. Had the seas been clear, Germany's merchantmen would have left our ports long ago—since ample notice was given of the approaching break. They remained behind by choice, as a means of avoiding capture by Entente cruisers. When von Bernstorff was dismissed their engines were deliberately disabled—a manifest renunciation of the right to depart.

The United States is entitled under international law to make unrestricted use of all the German tonnage taken over in our harbors. The special provisions of the ancient treaty with Prussia are null and void because Germany has been violating that treaty at will. We recognize the obligation to make a settlement at the end of the war with the owners of these vessels. But if Germany continues to sink our merchantmen in violation of the laws of warfare at sea, this country will certainly be entitled to recompense itself by the appropriation of an equal amount of German tonnage.

Such questions, however, are for the future. We are at war. The main thing now is to make the best possible use of the tonnage which Germany has placed involuntarily at our disposal. The sixty-eight vessels seized yesterday and the twenty-three seized in the Philippines on February 5 last constitute an auxiliary and transport fleet of enormous value. It will take some time to get the wrecked machinery back into working order. But it ought to be in good repair by the time our government begins to send troops abroad in large numbers.

The Entente Powers in Europe have made military use of German vessels seized under similar circumstances. It would be foolish for us not to profit by that example. It is one of the ironies of Germany's insistence on unrestricted submarine warfare that that policy has not only forced us into the war, but has also furnished us with more than 500,000 tons of shipping with which to offset any maritime losses which Germany may inflict. This shipping should now take its chances along with our other shipping. German commanders who try to torpedo it will do so with the knowledge that most of it is owned by companies in which the Kaiser is a large personal stockholder.

## The Advisory Board

One of the first acts of the new Congress should be to give a more definite status and greater authority to the advisory board of the Council of National Defense. The civilian board is carrying a large part of the preparedness programme. In fact, nearly all the mobilization that has been accomplished so far has been of an industrial nature, and the credit belongs to the civilian board.

While the establishment of the board was authorized by Congress, it has very little authority. It must submit all its recommendations in writing to the Council of National Defense, composed of five Cabinet officers. Each of these has his own department, with a vast volume of administrative work absorbing his attention.

The nation does not need more subordinate administrative officials. It does not need an endless chain of officials, each passing his recommendation on to another. The Advisory Board, which has been mobilizing the industrial and munitions resources of the country, has done excellent work and has been highly praised.

## The Colonial Mail Bag

Along about the time Benjamin Franklin was Postmaster General for the American Colonies—he was working for John Bull then, as Uncle Sam had not yet been born—John Burrows carried mail bags from New York to Philadelphia.

In the autobiography which he left for his family in Centre Pennsylvania, and from which I quote a few days ago, Burrows related the reason why he had the job. His father had the first contract to carry mail between these two cities. The mail was transported on horseback, and Burrows, so his famous son tells us, selected very small men or boys to ride. When John was thirteen he was put to the work.

The distance of about ninety miles was covered in a day. And never, wrote this man who crossed the Delaware with Washington, was the mail bag so heavy that he could not lift it with his little finger.

## The Glory Dies Not

Mother, my country. Thy dream of other years, Thy vision that swept round the world On wings of fire and tears— The dream that heartened England, The dream that France awoke, The dream that leapt in every pulse Of Garibaldi's stroke, The dream that lights the uncertain clouds Of Russia's altar-smoke— It flares again across our skies, It shines into our shining eyes, Unchanged and ever bright and bold. Talk we of rights for which to fight, Lawyers, aloof and cold? Not rights or wrongs arouse our might; We fight for the reverseless Right, Now, as of old.

HAMILTON FISH ARMSTRONG.

## Abolish Age Dead Line

Let Many Spanish War Veterans Use Their Training

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Now that it has become necessary for the country to mobilize all its resources, it is not a good time to get rid of that hoary superstition about "the dead line" and give the sound, trained man of forty-five a chance? Dr. Eugene Lyman Fisk, of the New York Life Extension Institute, recently made the statement that age is a physiological, not a chronological, matter. Time is a mere abstraction which, in itself, has no direct bearing on a man's health. Yet we have an age test for military service—a mere mechanical rule. Why should there be anything but physical and moral tests? If a man is fit for duty, what difference does it make whether he is seventeen or seventy?

Youth, of course, has greater agility than maturity, and to that extent may have an advantage in personal encounter (with all due respect to such veterans as Senator Lodge), but modern warfare is not a matter of personal encounters. On the other hand, the disciplined, self-restrained man of forty-five has a decided advantage over his youthful comrade which is often overlooked, and that advantage lies in the fact that he has lived long enough to know how to take care of himself. "At forty," runs the old proverb, "a man is either a fool or a physician." The writer had six months' experience in military camps during the Spanish war. Two men of his company succumbed during that time, both young fellows. The first death in the company was that of a man of twenty-two, who was the very personification of youth and exuberant health. In this company we had a number of old Guardsmen, a few of whom would never have been enlisted had the age test been strictly applied. These men were the last to yield to sickness.

All the men who enlisted for the Spanish war at the age of twenty-six years have now reached the age limit and are barred from service even in the reserves. For months most of these men burned Uncle Sam's powder at target practice to no purpose. We go to the recruiting office to-day and are turned down. No use, for there is the discharge paper showing our age at the time of enlistment, and so to the recruiting office it is a mere matter of arithmetic. We do not receive so much consideration as a horse, for no experienced horse rider will turn down the animal as unfit for service without first looking at its teeth. Is a good horse so rare and a good man so cheap? "The horse, his importance more than human," said Charles Sumner, speaking of the age of chivalry. Is this still true in time of war?

I put it to The Tribune and its readers: Is it the duty to mobilize our resources? Is this economy? Or, to put it in terms which all Americans are supposed to understand, "Is it good business?" PRIVATE.

Company C, 14th N. Y. Volunteer Infantry in the Spanish War. Brooklyn, April 4, 1917.

## The World's Liberator

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Hereforward the Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World which stands in New York Harbor will have a definite meaning for all political pilgrims and all proselytes of freedom. Never again will it be regarded as a national pose, a gesture of impotent boasting, a symbol of neutral and negative pride. Its significance is fixed. For the first time since its erection it has received the stamp of the Chief Executive at Washington; the President has proclaimed to the whole world what we mean by liberty; he has defined our aims in the present and described our ambitions for the future.

Above all, he has made it apparent that no tyrant can ever land on these shores. It matters little what the President may have done in the past or what he may do in the future, this promulgation of our moral intentions, backed by militant force, will rank with the memorable human documents of this or other ages.

The President's declaration came neither too soon nor too late, but in keeping with the vital moment of the hour, in accord with the return of the Russian exiles from the Romanoff captivity, the reaction against the divine right superstition in Teuton countries, and the revolt of Arabia against the iron yoke of Constantinople and the unspeakable Turk.

All great speeches harmonize with some great event. The speech of President Wilson cannot be regarded as the result of chance. He has branded the people of this country with the seal of liberty and proffered it to the peoples of other nations.

FRANCIS GRIERSON. Washington, April 5, 1917.

## If German Ships Are Sunk

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The German vessels in our ports undoubtedly should be, and I assume they will be, taken over by our government for use in carrying on our commerce with the Allies.

If the Administration should decide that we ought to adhere to the advanced civilized principle that private property, even of an enemy's subjects, should not be taken without just compensation, I beg to suggest that a rule of compensation ought to be established, in the case of German vessels, which would make their loss by illegal submarine attack, after we had taken them over full not upon the United States, but where it belongs, namely, upon Germany.

This would be accomplished by taking over the use, instead of the ownership, of the vessels and by awarding a just compensation for such use so long, only, as it was not prevented by an illegal submarine attack.

If we took over the ownership of the vessels the loss would be ours if they were illegally sunk by German submarines. If we took over the use only, leaving their ownership where it now rests, the loss of the vessels by such attacks would fall upon the subjects of the government which sank them illegally.

No principle of justice impels us to protect German subjects from losses resulting from the illegal acts of their own government.

HUGH A. BAYNE. New York, April 4, 1917.

## 'All for America'

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: This is a country of slogans. Almost everything imaginable has a slogan. Everything except the country itself. We certainly have no proper slogan, as have all the other great countries. Why? The Frenchman says "Vive la France!" The German says "Deutschland über Alles!" The Italian says "Viva l'Italia!" The Englishman sings "God Save the King!" The American says—nothing!

## How Long Can Germany Hold Out?

By CARL W. ACKERMAN

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The Tribune Association

Wary of the war, depressed and suffering, the German people are to-day still fighting the Kaiser's battles because the Kaiser and his generals are the greatest jugglers of human nature in Europe.

When Americans ask, "How long can Germany hold out?" I reply, "As long as the German government can satisfy the vanity and stimulate the nerves of the people, and as long as the people permit the government to do the nation's thinking."

How long a time that will be no one can say. It was formerly believed that whenever a nation reached the limit which Germany has reached it would crumple up. But Germany fails to crumple. Instead of breaking up, she fights harder and more desperately. Why can she do this? The answer is simple: Because the German people believe in their government and the government knows that as long as it can convince the people that it is winning the war the people will fight.

Germany is to-day in the position of a man on the verge of a nervous breakdown; in the position of a man who is under-nourished, who is depressed, who is weighed down by colossal burdens, who is brooding over the loss of friends and relatives, but of a man who feels that his future health and happiness depend upon his ability to hold out until the crisis passes.

If a physician were called in to prescribe for such a patient his first act would in all probability be to stimulate this man's hope, to make him believe that if he would only "hold out" he would pass the crisis successfully. But no physician could say that his patient could stand it for one week, a month or a year more. The doctor would have to gamble upon that man's nerves. He would have to stimulate him daily, perhaps hourly.

## On Verge of Breakdown

So it is with the German nation. The country is on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Men and women, business men and generals, long ago lost their patience. They are under-nourished. They are depressed, distressed, suffering and anxious for peace. It is as true of the Hamburg-American Line directors as it is true of the officers at the front.

There have been more cases of nervous breakdowns among the people during the last year than at any time in Germany's history. There have been so many suicides that the newspapers are forbidden to publish them. There have been so many losses on the battlefields that every family has been affected not once, but two, three and four times. Dance halls have been closed. Cafés and hotels must stop serving meals by 11 o'clock. Theatres are presenting the most sullen plays. Rumors spread like prairie fires. One day Hindenburg is dead. Two days later he is alive again.

But the Kaiser has studied this war psychology. He and his ministers know that one thing keeps the German people fighting—their hope of ultimate victory; their belief that they have won already. The Kaiser knows, too, that if the public mind is stimulated from day to day by new victories, by reports of many prisoners, of new territory gained, of enemy ships torpedoed, or by promises of reforms after the war, the public will continue fighting.

So the Kaiser gambles from day to day with his people's nerves. For two years he has done this, and for two years he has been supported by a 12,000,000-manpower army and a larger army of workers and women at home. The Kaiser believes he can gamble for a long time yet with his people.

Just as it is impossible for a physician to say how long his patient can be stimulated without breaking down, so it is impossible for an observer in Germany to say how long it will be before the break-up comes in Germany.

## Many Crises Weathered

Many times during the war Germany has been on the verge of a collapse. President Wilson's ultimatum after the sinking of the Sussex in the English Channel brought about one crisis. Van Falkenhayn's defeat at Verdun caused another. The Somme battle brought on a third. General Brusilov's offensive against the Austrians upset conditions throughout the Central Powers. Rumania's declaration of war made another crisis. But Germany passed all of these successfully.

The ability of the German government to convince the people that Wilson was unneutral and wanted war caused them to accept Germany's note in the Sussex case. The defeat at Verdun was explained as a tactical success. The Somme battles, with their terrible losses, failed to bring a break-up because the Allies stopped attacking at the critical moment.

Von Hindenburg's appointment as chief of the General Staff gave him authority over all the armed forces of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, so he remedied the mistakes of the Austrians during Brusilov's attacks by reorganizing the Dual Monarchy's army. The crisis which Rumania's entrance on the Allies' side brought in Germany and Hungary was forgotten after von Mackensen took Bucharest.

In each of these instances it will be noticed that the crisis was successfully passed by "stimulation." The German mind was made to believe what the Kaiser willed. But what about the future? Is there a bottomless well of stimulation in Germany? Before these questions can be answered others must be asked: Why don't the German people think for themselves? Will they ever think for themselves?

Nation Beginning to Think

## Wage Increase Is

More Than Offset By Rise in Prices

Pay of American Workingman, Expressed in Terms of Food It Will Buy, Cut 16 Per Cent in Ten Years

If a dollar's worth of food bought in 1907 weighed the market basket down ten pounds, in 1916 that dollar purchased only a trifle more than seven pounds. The real prices of food jumped 39 per cent in 1916, compared with 1907, according to the investigations of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the United States Department of Labor, reported in the April monthly review of the bureau.

Despite an average increase of 19 per cent in wages per hour in the same period, and reduction in hours worked of 4 per cent, the rising cost of foods has operated to cut the pay of the American workingman about 16 per cent expressed in terms of food his wages will buy. A workman who made \$3 a day in 1907, working ten hours, in 1916 worked nine hours and thirty-five minutes a day and drew \$3.48 for it; but it cost him \$4.17 to buy the same quantity of food his \$3.48 would cover in 1907; so he really was 6 cents worse off.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics gathers figures from forty-eight leading cities of the United States on unit prices of wages, and from forty-six cities on food prices. In these cities live about one-fifth (20,000,000) of our people. The wage returns come from eleven groups of organized workers. These figures are taken from two bulletins, giving scales of wages and hours of labor, and a table of prices of food. Index numbers, percentages showing proportionate rates of increase or reduction, are shown for each year. The department has learned that the abnormal increase in food prices shown in 1916 is still further increased in January to 56 per cent, and in February to 62 per cent above the average cost in 1907. Of course, all these figures are based on averages and may not apply exactly to individual cases. If an army of uniformed men were made on the average measurements of the soldiers it would represent their average size, but wouldn't fit one of them.

## Factor of Idle Time

A vital fact should be considered here, however: These figures do not account for idle time. Until recently the department could not get satisfactory figures on this point. But it is a matter of common knowledge that jobs now are chasing men. In 1907 there were no jobs to dodge. The land was crowded with idle men. At a conference of workers held at the Department of Commerce and Labor in 1909 to discuss the problem of unemployment, Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, stated that "since October, 1907, nearly 2,000,000 workers were out of jobs." Other working steadily prior to that time. Other workers had to leave the number of men then idle at from three to four millions. Nowadays every man who wants work can find it—and that is a very important fact.

To make the difference in living costs plain, take the experience of Denny O'Neill. Denny worked on the railroad in 1907 for \$1.40 a day of ten hours. Denny is a steady man and he kept his work right along. He got \$8.40 a week in 1907. Denny's pay now on the averages found by the department of Labor is \$8.75 a week. He works about the same number of minutes each day than he did in 1907. Denny paid \$5 a week for food. In 1916 Denny had to pay \$6.25 a week for the same quantity of food. So Denny's living was actually cut during these nine years of rising wages. He loses 60 cents a week, not counting rent, which has not changed for Denny, nor counting clothes, which cost him more.

The averages of food and of pay qualified by reductions in hours worked, rose at about the same rate from 1912 to 1915, so that during that period of four years the average man would pay for about the same quantities of food each year. Actually, even quantities of better conditions in 1915 than in 1912, because they had more and steadier work. But war losses got out of the equation in 1916 and pushed up food prices faster than wages. There were some crop shortages also, which contributed to the rise. Besides this, however, there is reason to raise that other elements are chilling, reshaping, prices. Cold storage, commodities from market are wanted to contribute to the present advance in the prices of food. Whether some persons have conspired to engross the markets the Department of Labor cannot state. But the reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics seem to lend some color to such an opinion, viewed in the light of conditions revealed by a comparison of figures through a range of years.

## No Hope of Converts

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Several of the papers have commented on the President's war message, and the enlightening effect it would have on the German people, were it published broadcast in Germany.

I fear, however, that the state-control press of that country has already "beaten it to it," for their interpretation of it has been fed to the people and will be promptly and dutifully absorbed by the receptive German mind.

But, apart from that, how can we hope for light in darkest Germany when the bulk of the German language press in this country construes the message and its significance as they do? Several of the German papers have, it is true, expressed their unqualified loyalty, but the great majority accept the war declaration in a spirit of martyrdom. They pledge their loyalty begrudgingly. They have observed the trend of American opinion all through the European war, and they have read the truth in our newspapers. They have been fed on a tissue of lies—lies, and still they can not and will not understand.

What earthly good is it then, to hope that the President's message will bring any light to a country suffering from national blindness? A. N. PARMELEE. New York, April 5, 1917.

## Why Raise an Army?

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Even if we join in the war, we are on earth do we want an army? Sure, the Allies will not attack us, and Germany will get us at our own ruins of England, France, Italy and Russia.

Our young men, if taken from production industries, will only make our manufacturing shortage more severe. Our manufacturing now rushed to supplies, engines, cars, rails, and cutlery, and what is to be gained but more unemployment? Our transportation, now almost hopelessly congested, will be commandeered for carrying troops and supplies for them, and what is to be gained?

Is it not our best assistance to furnish food and necessities to our friends, without whom we cannot live? H. B. SWIFT. Millbrook, N. Y., April 5, 1917.

## How Long Can Germany Hold Out?

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: "How long can Germany hold out?" is a really answered by saying that Germany can keep on until she is decisively defeated militarily.